

STARR FAMILY HOME

— STATE HISTORIC SITE —

Marshall, Texas

Pre-Visit Guide

High School

Overview: The Starrs and the Confederacy

The Starr family, Frank and Clara and their ten children, were a prominent family in East Texas and the builders of the historic home they named Maplecroft. After service as Confederate States of America soldiers, the Starrs faced challenges and new beginnings after the Civil War.

U.S. History Since 1877 TEKS

(3) History. The student understands the political, economic, and social changes in the United States from 1877 to 1898. The student is expected to:

(B) analyze economic issues such as industrialization, the growth of railroads, the growth of labor unions, farm issues, the cattle industry boom, the rise of entrepreneurship, free enterprise, and the pros and cons of big business.

(29) Social studies skills. The student applies critical-thinking skills to organize and use information acquired from a variety of valid sources, including electronic technology. The student is expected to:

(A) use a variety of both primary and secondary valid sources to acquire information and to analyze and answer historical questions;

(B) analyze information by sequencing, categorizing, identifying cause-and-effect relationships, comparing and contrasting, finding the main idea, summarizing, making generalizations, making predictions, drawing inferences, and drawing conclusions;

(D) use the process of historical inquiry to research, interpret, and use multiple types of sources of evidence;

(H) use appropriate skills to analyze and interpret social studies information such as maps, graphs, presentations, speeches, lectures, and political cartoons.

Materials

- Historical images for display/distribution
- Graphic organizers

Vocabulary

- **Maplecroft:** the name the Starr family gave to their home in Marshall, Texas; a farm or small plot of land among maple trees
- **parlor:** a formal room in a house where visitors were entertained.

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Historical Context

Frank and Clara Starr married in New Orleans in 1868. Frank, along with his father James Harper Starr and brother Amory, worked together as land and banking agents for real estate interests across the state. In the late 1860s, Frank Starr debated whether to move from their home in Nacogdoches to Galveston or to Marshall. He seemed to prefer the society in Galveston, but decided that the East Texas town of Marshall would prove a better location for their business headquarters and would also provide easier access to Clara's family in New Orleans via Shreveport's river steamboats.

Marshall had other practical appeals. By 1854, Marshall had a telegraph link to New Orleans, which gave it quick access to national news and made it the first town in Texas to have a telegraph. By 1860, Marshall was one of the largest and wealthiest towns in East Texas. The town donated land and \$300,000 of bond money (over \$5 million in today's money to convince the Texas & Pacific Railway Company to base its operations in town. In the 1870s, the Texas & Pacific Railroad (T&PRR) located in Marshall and the town became a primary stop for rails that would eventually stretch across Texas, connecting Marshall to cities, people, and industries in the east, north, and west. In choosing Marshall over Galveston, Frank also avoided the potential devastation that his family might have experienced in the Great Galveston Hurricane of 1900, which destroyed over 3,600 buildings and was the deadliest natural disaster in U.S. history.

By 1872, the family had settled in Marshall and were living in their newly built home, Maplecroft. Frank and Clara had ten children, but only six daughters survived into adulthood. Frank, along with his father James Harper Starr and brother Amory, worked together as land and banking agents for real estate interests across the state. They advertised over 1,000,000 acres of real estate to new emigrants coming to Texas by steamboat and railroad. Clara managed a house that included their children, numerous servants, her widowed mother Mrs. Clapp, and a live-in teacher for their daughters. The Starrs became a prominent family in Marshall and were known for their work in Texas land and railroad development after the Civil War.

Activity: At Home with the Starrs

15 minutes

Display/distribute the **activity images** of the Starr home and family members.

Ask the following questions for discussion as students analyze the photos:

- What details in the photos tell you about the Starr's social standing? Give examples.
- What activities might have taken place in the parlor?
- What similarities and differences do you see between the Starr's parlor and bedrooms and rooms in today's houses?
- Why are historical photographs valuable?

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Primary Source Activity: Starr Service

30 minutes

Display/distribute the **primary source documents A-D** and the **analysis worksheet**.

Preview each document, including any titles, dates, and identified audiences. Review any pertinent terms including:

- CSA: Confederate States of America; formed in 1861 and composed of the eleven southern states that seceded from the Union; dissolved in 1865 after defeat in the Civil War
- muster: to gather troops together
- pardon: a forgiveness of offenses committed by a convicted individual
- secession: the act of withdrawing from a group or membership; the withdrawal of eleven southern states from the Union in 1860

Have students work individually or in pairs to examine each primary source document to answer the analysis worksheet questions. Extend the discussion by asking students to discuss these questions:

After the Civil War, the Starr family built a profitable land development business, selling Texas lands to newcomers. How did the 1865 pardon of James H. Starr affect the family's later success and standing in Marshall, Texas? How did President Johnson's proclamation impact greater U.S. history politically, economically, and socially?

Primary Source Document Summaries:

- A: James F. Starr service record
- B: James H. Starr amnesty petition
- C: Andrew Johnson Presidential Proclamation, 1865
- D: James H. Starr presidential pardon, December 8, 1865

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Primary Source Document Analysis Answers

A

1. Confederate Army
2. Sibley's Brigade Texas Mounted Volunteers
3. 18
4. near San Antonio, Tx
5. his horse; \$140

B

1. Andrew Johnson, President of the United States
2. James H. Starr
3. Nacogdoches County, 56 years old, a physician
4. Starr held office in the CSA government.
5. He disagreed with secession but felt it his duty to support Texas when the state became a member of the CSA.

C

1. All persons of color
2. White persons on the condition that they will never assert rights to or own an enslaved person
3. See paragraph 5 for various classes of people not granted pardons.

D

1. Andrew Johnson, president; William H. Seward, Secretary of State
2. Starr was required to take the oath proscribed in Johnson's 1865 pardon proclamation
3. Acquire slaves or make use of slave labor
4. Starr would write Seward saying he had received and accepted the pardon.

Assessment

Evaluate student worksheets for completeness and understanding.

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Additional Resources & Extensions

The Portal to Texas History

<https://texashistory.unt.edu>

The Handbook of Texas Online

<https://tshaonline.org/handbook>

Library of Congress

<https://loc.gov>

East Texas Research Center—East Texas Digital Archives

<http://digital.sfasu.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/EastTexRC>

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Activity Image 1: Starr Family



Clara Clapp Starr and child



James Frank Starr



Starr daughters

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Activity Image 2: Maplecroft parlor



Activity Image 3: Maplecroft bedroom



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Activity Image 4: Maplecroft



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Primary Source Image A: James F. Starr service record

Citation: National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), Washington, D.C., Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of Texas, Series Number: M323, Roll: 3.

S (Confederate.)
4 Cav. Texas.

James F. Starr
Pvt. { Capt. John F. F. Doherty's Co.,
1 Regiment, Sibley's Brigade
Texas Mounted Volunteers.*

Age *18* years.

Appears on
Company Muster-in Roll
of the organization named above.

Roll dated *Camp Sibley*
Sept 29, 1861.

Muster-in to date *Sept 29*, 1861.

Joined for duty and enrolled:

When *Sept 29*, 1861.

Where *Camp 1 Regt near San Antonio Tex*

By whom *By the Capt*

Period *For the war*

Valuation of horse, *\$40* 100; equipments, *\$30* 100

Remarks: *Gun \$30.00*
Pistol \$30.00

*This company subsequently became Company H, 4th Regiment Texas Cavalry.
The 4th Regiment Texas Cavalry was organized about October, 1861, with ten companies, A to K. It was also known as the 1st Regiment, Sibley's Brigade Texas Mounted Volunteers, and as the 4th Regiment Texas Mounted Volunteers.

Book mark: *J. B. Hyatt*

(656) Copyist.

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Primary Source Image B: Amnesty Petition p.1

Citation: Case Files of Applications from Former Confederates for Presidential Pardons ("Amnesty Papers") 1865-1867, (National Archives Microfilm Publication M1003, 73 rolls), Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1780's-1917, Record Group 94, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

*To his Excellency Andrew Johnson
President of the United States.*

*The petition of James H. Starr a
citizen of the State of Texas residing in Nacogdoches County, aged
fifty six years, by profession a physician, respectfully represents
that he is one of those persons who, from having held civil office
under the late Confederate States government, are excepted from
the amnesty granted by your Excellency's proclamation dated
May 29th 1865; and being desirous of obtaining relief from the
disabilities now resting upon him under the laws of the
United States, — now re-established over the State of Texas, —
and of being allowed to resume his position as a citizen of
the United States, without forfeiture of property or any of
the rights and immunities pertaining to such citizenship,
presents this application for relief under the suggestions
and invitation contained in said Proclamation.*

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Primary Source Image B: Amnesty Petition p.2

Citation: Case Files of Applications from Former Confederates for Presidential Pardons ("Amnesty Papers") 1865-1867, (National Archives Microfilm Publication M1003, 73 rolls), Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1780's-1917, Record Group 94, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

His position in reference to the late movement was one of earnest and active opposition to the revolution, and of adherence to the Union; in the hope that the rights of the citizens of all of the States within the Union be fully recognized and protected - until Texas and other States embracing many millions of inhabitants, had through their Conventions and legislatures, with the apparent sanction of the people, seceded and organized a new confederacy. Such separation and reorganization having been accomplished, petitioner believed that his allegiance was due to his State and country as thus reorganized, and freely gave his services in their support in civil positions to which he was invited (unsolicited) under the Confederate States

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Primary Source Image C: Presidential Proclamation, 1865 [text p. 1]

Citation: Mintz, S., & McNeil, S. (2018). Presidential Reconstruction. Digital History. (Accessed November 11, 2018)
http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/exhibits/reconstruction/section4/section4_presrecon.html.

A PROCLAMATION.

Whereas the President of the United States, on the 8th day of December, A. D. eighteen hundred and sixty-three, and on the 24th day of March A. D. eighteen hundred and sixty-four, did, with the object to suppress the existing rebellion, and to restore the authority of the United States, issue proclamations offering amnesty to certain persons who had directly or by implication participated in the said rebellion; and whereas more than one year has elapsed since said proclamations were issued, and in that time many persons have failed and refused to take the benefits offered thereby; and whereas many persons who have complied with the terms and taken the oath in said proclamations prescribed, committed acts of hostility against the government of the United States after the said offer of amnesty and notice thereof, and as to all such a doubt exists whether the said proclamation affords the legal protection intended to be given; and whereas many persons have continued their hostility to the government till a recent date, notwithstanding the proffered pardon, who are now willing to accept the amnesty of the government;

To the end, therefore, that doubts may be removed, that the authority of the government of the United States may be restored, and that peace, order, and freedom may be established, I, Andrew Johnson, President of the United States, do proclaim and declare that I hereby grant and assure to all persons of color who have, directly or by implication, participated in the existing rebellion, a free pardon; and that I hereby grant and assure to all white persons who have, directly or indirectly, participated in the existing rebellion, except as hereinafter excepted, a full pardon, but upon the condition, nevertheless, that every such person will, in aid of the emancipation proclamation, the legal validity of which is hereby affirmed, freely and forever disclaim, and will never assert, right or title to slaves, and that every such person will never thereafter own a slave or any interest therein, and will take and subscribe the following oath, (or affirmation:)

"I, -- --, declaring that I do, freely and forever, disclaim, and that I will never assert, right or title to slaves, and that I will never hereafter own a slave, or any interest therein, pursuant to the President's proclamation of date -- day of --, 1865, do solemnly swear (or affirm) in the presence of Almighty God that I will henceforth faithfully protect and defend the Constitution of the United States, and the union of the States thereunder.

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http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/exhibits/reconstruction/section4/section4_presrecon.html.

I do further proclaim and declare that such persons as shall continue hostilities against the government of the United States, or give aid and comfort to insurgents and hostile persons after notice of this proclamation, or a reasonable time shall have elapsed within which notice must be presumed, will not be entitled to the pardon offered herein; and that all persons not hereinafter excepted, and who desire the benefits of the amnesty of the government, must within -- months from the date hereof comply with the terms and take the oath herein prescribed.

The following classes of persons are excepted from the benefits of this proclamation: All who are or shall have been civil or diplomatic officers or agents of the so-called Confederate government; all who left judicial stations under the United States to aid the rebellion; all who shall have been military or naval officers of said so-called Confederate government above the rank of colonel in the army or lieutenant in the navy; all who left seats in the Congress of the United States to aid the rebellion; all who resigned commissions in the army or navy of the United States and afterwards aided in the rebellion; all who have engaged in any way in treating colored persons or white persons in charge of such otherwise than lawfully and prisoners of war, and which persons may have been found in the United States service as soldiers, seamen, or in other capacity; all persons who are absentees from the United States because of the rebellion; all persons who held the pretended offices of governors of States in insurrection against the United States; all persons who were on the.....day of....., 1861, residents of the States of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, Kansas, California, Oregon, and the Territories not declared in insurrection, and who, after that time, voluntarily left their homes and joined in said rebellion, or gave aid and comfort thereto; all persons who have been engaged in the destruction of the commerce of the United States upon the high seas under the pretext of aiding the rebellion; all persons who have made raids into the United States from Canada, or been engaged in destroying the commerce of the United States upon the lakes and rivers that separate Canada from the United States; and all persons who may have sold or otherwise disposed of their slaves to prevent their becoming free.

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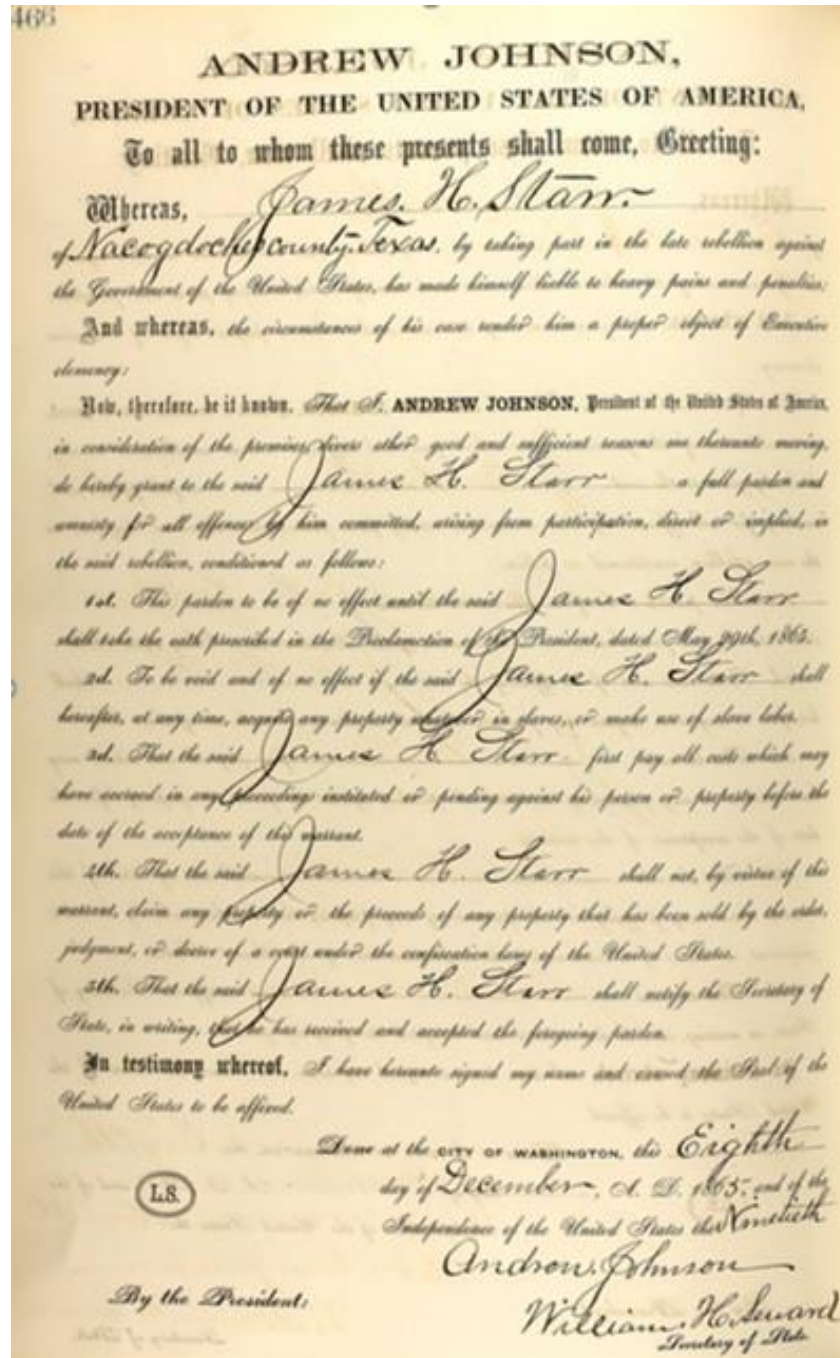
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Primary Source Image D: Presidential Pardon, 1865

Citation: Pardons Under Amnesty Proclamations, compiled 1865–1869. A1 1005, 26 rolls. ARC ID: 638273. General Records of the Department of State, 1763–2002, Record Group 59. National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C.



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Primary Source Analysis: Starr Service

Use the primary source documents A-D to answer the following questions.

Document A

For which army was James F. Starr mustered?

What was the name of Starr's regiment?

How old was Starr when he joined?

Where was Starr enrolled in the army?

According to this document, at the time he joined, what was Starr's most valuable asset?

Document B

To whom is the letter addressed?

The writer of this petition is asking for amnesty for whom?

What information does the letter give about the amnesty seeker's place of residence, age, and occupation?

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Why is the amnesty seeker not eligible for a general pardon?

How did the amnesty seeker feel about Texas's stance prior to the Civil War?

Document C

Which group of people are the first mentioned for pardon in this document?

What are the second group of people pardoned? Under what conditions?

Name at least three groups of people not granted a pardon under this document.

Document D

What two government officials signed this document?

What was required for the pardon to be in effect?

What conditions would have invalidated the pardon?

How was the pardon to be finalized?

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Site Visit Recommendations

- Complete the pre-visit lesson or other introductory lessons prior to your field trip.
- Divide students into small groups, each with an adult chaperone.
- Make sure students bring pencils. Pens and markers are not allowed in the exhibits.

Information

To schedule a site visit field trip for your students, please call 903-935-3044.

For admission prices and hours of operation, please visit us online at <http://visitstarrfamilyhome.com>.

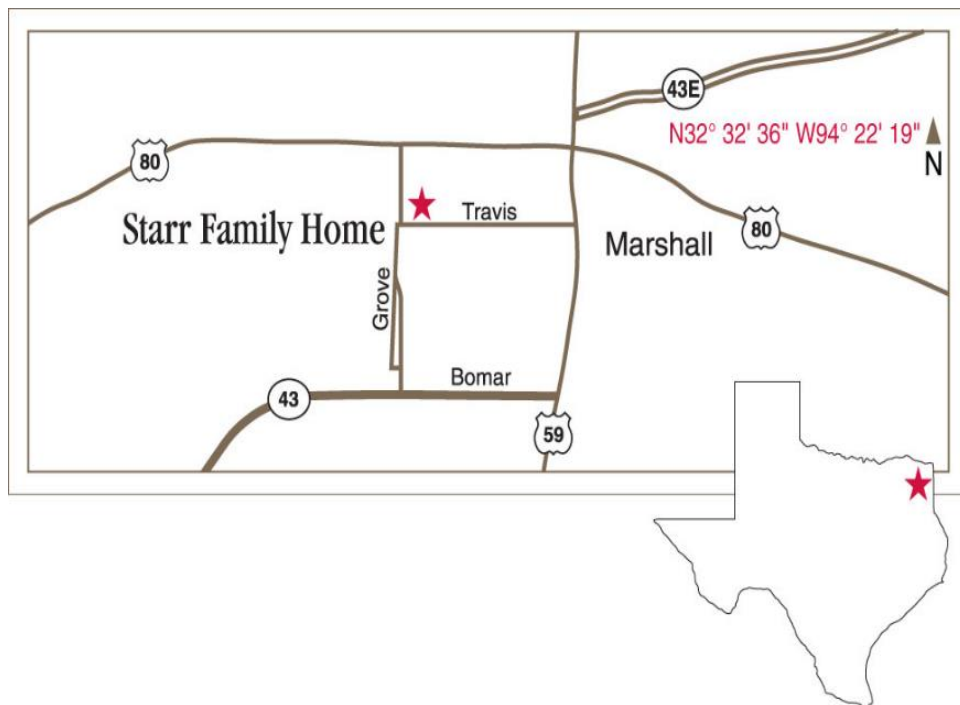
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